

not only to St. Mary's but to the city itself, have been numerous.

Monsignor Garrity grew up in Somerville, Massachusetts. He is a graduate of St. John's College. In 1973, he was ordained a priest in the Archdiocese of Boston. Prior to coming to St. Mary's, he served parishes in Billerica and Malden. He was also Director of the Catholic Center and was Campus Minister at the University of Massachusetts at Lowell.

In 1992, he was appointed pastor of St. Mary's in Lynn. Since then, he has transformed the parish into a vibrant, welcoming and diverse community. He has breathed new life into the St. Mary's community and engaged support from hundreds of volunteers.

During his tenure both a Haitian Community and a Congolese Community were established at St. Mary's parish. A strategic plan for St. Mary's High School was completed that led to a \$10 million capital campaign and the opening of the William F. Connell Center—a new state of the art academic building, the refurbishment of the school campus and the doubling of enrollment.

Monsignor Garrity's vision led to the conversion of a large, old convent building on the St. Mary's campus into 32 units of much-needed low income elderly housing with a service plan that is modeled like an assisted living arrangement. He was an advocate for the conversion of property located at the closed St. Jean Baptiste parish into low income housing to provide affordable home ownership opportunities.

At the request of Cardinal Sean O'Malley, he is currently serving on three Archdiocesan task forces: the Improved Financial Relationship Committee (IFRC), the Clergy Fund Review Committee and the Elementary School Task Force. Monsignor Garrity is a regular panelist on the RUACH Program, an inter-faith dialogue program on local cable TV and is active in ecumenical and interfaith activities in the Greater Lynn community. His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, named Monsignor a Prelate of Honor with the title of Very Reverend Monsignor in 1998, and Monsignor Garrity was made a Knight of the Holy Sepulcher in 1999.

Through his work, Monsignor Garrity has made a difference in the lives of so many in Lynn, and he will leave behind him an indelible imprint on the community.

I join my friends in the greater Lynn community and the St. Mary's parish family in extending my best wishes to Monsignor Garrity as he embarks upon his next assignment hoping that he understands that he will always be welcome "home" to St. Mary's and Lynn whenever he ventures this way.

COMMENDING KATHY DIXON AND RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF FOSTER CAREGIVERS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the heartfelt commitment of Kathy Dixon and foster caregivers for their tireless, selfless efforts to transform the lives of children who need another chance in life. Foster parents like Kathy wrap the necessities

of life in the warm heart of family, providing the opportunity for children and young adults to recover from their pasts and reclaim their lives. Foster caregivers remind us that the act of building a quality life for others is truly a remarkable and honorable achievement. All children deserve the best shot at life. Foster caregivers are those who have determined that the best shot does not end with heartbreak, but ends instead with the resolution to succeed.

I received letters from two of Kathy Dixon's foster children, Tynequa and Tony Wardlow. Kathy represents the very best in foster parenting, a courageous woman who has devoted her heart and soul to caring for young children who needed someone to care for and nurture them. As Tynequa writes, "She took me in when I had nowhere to go." Tony says that, "she is the one who picks me up when I fall." He writes that he prayed God would send him a mother who "would hold on to me like someone with a big heart." God, he said, sent him Kathy, "and so much more." Tynequa insists that Kathy has not only saved her life, but also has taught her "to stand up for what I believe in, have faith in myself, be responsible and respectful, get my education, don't be fake, don't have low self-esteem, don't buy friendship, and most importantly, don't give up on hope." I cannot imagine a greater gift in this world than what Kathy has given to her children.

I am pleased to work with many foster care organizations in my district in South Florida. Just recently I met with a group of foster youth—in their late teens and early twenties now—who came to Washington, DC as part of the Broward County Trip of a Lifetime, an annual effort to bring these young adults to our nation's capital to meet their congressional representatives and learn how our government works. I take enormous pride in the opportunity I had to sit down with these young men and women and hear their stories and hopes and dreams for the future. Several of these youth have children of their own now and are working hard to impart to their children the wisdom, love, and affection given to them by their foster families. And it is because of the support they had from their foster families that these youth now dream of becoming engineers, entrepreneurs, social workers, nurses, and much else. In South Florida, organizations like Forever Family have proved enormously successful at changing lives, finding stable homes for children and young adults in need, and setting hundreds of young people on the right path in life.

Madam Speaker, American society is forever indebted to the hard work, deep commitment, determined sacrifice, and unconditional love demonstrated by people like Kathy Dixon. She is an inspirational role model, not just to myself or any one of us here in Congress but, more importantly, to her own children, who recognize the transformation she brought about in their lives. As Tony writes, "God has blessed me with so many gifts that I will never forget."

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. BEVERLY TERRY'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MSU EXTENSION IN OAKLAND COUNTY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Beverly Terry, Executive Director of the Oakland County Michigan State University Extension Office, on her retirement from the MSU Extension service. As a Member of Congress it is both my privilege and honor to recognize Ms. Terry for her many years of service and her contributions which have enriched and strengthened our community.

Ms. Terry's career began over 30 years ago when she joined the MSU Extension as the Presque Isle 4-H program assistant. She put her bachelors degree in community development from Central Michigan University and a masters degree in community services from Michigan State University to good use during her tenure with MSU Extension. Through her hard work, ingenuity, and dedication Ms. Terry eventually rose to the position of Executive Director of the Oakland County MSU Extension Office, serving the second largest county in the State of Michigan. As Executive Director, she has worked with her staff to develop and enhance critically important lifestyle and skill development programming.

Michigan State University Extension's mission is to help people improve their lives through an educational process that applies knowledge to critical issues, needs, and opportunities. Ms. Terry has been a tireless advocate and coordinator of this mission. She has overseen and advanced a variety of critical human services programs in Oakland County including 4-H youth development, the master gardener program, the family nutrition program, and the citizen planner program, just to name a few. Under Ms. Terry's leadership, these programs have prospered in the face of a challenging economy with uncertain funding.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Ms. Beverly Terry for her many contributions to our community and her leadership at the MSU Extension. I wish her many more years of health and happiness.

HONORING DIVISION I STATE CHAMPION GIRLS' SOCCER NOVI HIGH SCHOOL

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 2010

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the Division 1 State Champion Girls' Soccer Novi High School. On June 19, 2010, the Novi Lady Wildcats sealed a 2-1 victory over Plymouth, marking the 4th Division 1 State Championship under the Head Coach Brian O'Leary since 2005.

After having amassed a division record of 8-1-1 and sharing the Kensington Lake Athletic Association's Central Division title with the Northville Mustangs, the Lady Wildcats